

River to Reefs Educator's Workshop 2008

June 8 – 13, 2008 or June 22 – 27, 2008



One of the sights you'll see at Gray's Reef with the ROV

Join your leaders from the Georgia Aquarium and NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for a six-day, jam-packed teacher's workshop of fantastic field experiences and empowering classroom lessons.

This workshop begins in Atlanta with a visit to the Georgia Aquarium's Learning Loop. Participants then follow the course of the Altamaha Watershed from its headwaters near the Georgia Aquarium to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary with numerous field experiences along the way. The highlight of the workshop is an all day trip to Gray's Reef where participants deploy and operate an ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to see the reef without ever getting wet!

Gray's Reef is situated 20 miles east of Georgia's coast, just off Sapelo Island's Cabretta Beach. The sanctuary encompasses approximately 20 square miles of scattered limestone outcroppings that create a live-bottom reef. Within the boundaries are intermittent hard rocky ledges that host four species of hard coral with Ivory Bush Coral (*Oculina sp.*) as the most common coral. The reef ledges also support encrusting tunicates, soft corals and sponges of various colorful species and that's what attracts the fish galore!

Other field experiences include water quality monitoring training, a canoe trip at the convergence of Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, a boat ride through the Altamaha River Delta to explore the watershed that directly influences Gray's Reef, a trawling trip through the marsh, and a ferry ride over to Sapelo Island to explore the marshes and estuaries. On Sapelo Island participants are immersed in the cultural history of the native islander while investigating the ecology of beach and marsh communities. During our night hike on the beach we may even have the opportunity to observe a female Loggerhead sea turtle laying her eggs as the species has done for over 180 million years!

At the end of each day you will be mentally and physically exhausted, sweaty and perhaps even dirty; however, you will have experienced the watershed, coast and ocean thoroughly. You will explore and investigate with your hands, feet and sometimes your entire body and always with your spirit and mind and sometimes even your soul.



2005 participants gearing up for their all day cruise aboard the RV Savannah to Gray's Reef.

Each day will conclude with a group discussion on how the day's experiences can be incorporated into classroom lessons. We hope this type of group sharing will inspire some great ideas and questions to answer.

PLU credits are awarded teachers completing the requirements of the workshop.

Leaders for the workshop are:

Cathy Sakas, Education Coordinator, NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Kim Morris-Zarneke, Manager of Education Programs, Georgia Aquarium

Cost: Free

Dates: June 8th – 13th or June 22nd – 27th

Maximum Participants: 16 per workshop

Due to the limited number of spaces, interested teachers must apply and be accepted into the workshop to participate. Applications are due by April 15th. Selected participants will be notified on or about May 1st

Send completed applications electronically or by mail to:

Kim Morris-Zarneke, Education Dept, 225 Baker St, Atlanta, GA 30313

E-mail: kzarneke@georgiaaquarium.org

Phone: 404-581-4192

Fax: 404-581-4199



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

Application Form - Due April 15th

River to Reefs Educator's Workshop 2008

Presented by the Georgia Aquarium and NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Please note which week would be your 1st & 2nd choice: ☐ **June 8-13** ☐ **June 22-27**

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Name and Address of School:

Grades and Subjects Taught:

Approximate Number of Students Taught Per Year: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate page.

1. How do you think this workshop will help you grow professionally?
2. How do you think this workshop will help you grow personally?
3. How do you think this workshop will benefit your students?
4. Explain what a watershed is and why we need to understand it.

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